On the 159th anniversary of the creation of the Army Medal of Honor, the Association of the U.S. Army has released a new graphic novel about the heroism of Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud Jr., the Korean War hero who single-handedly held off the enemy so his fellow soldiers wouldn’t get overrun.

"Mitchell Red Cloud Jr. was recognized with a posthumous Medal of Honor for his actions to protect his fellow soldiers," said Joseph Craig, director of the AUSA Book Program. “The creative team on the book brings to life his courage and his self-sacrifice.”

Medal of Honor: Mitchell Red Cloud Jr. is available here.

It was released July 12, 159 years after President Abraham Lincoln signed into law a measure calling for the awarding of an Army Medal of Honor, according to History.com.

The first Army Medal of Honor would be awarded on March 25, 1863, to Pvt. Jacob Parrott, who was part of a daring Civil War raid that became known as the Great Locomotive Chase.

AUSA launched its Medal of Honor graphic novel series in October 2018. This is the 10th novel in the series.

The digital graphic novels, including one released in June featuring Parrott, are available here.

Born in 1924 in Wisconsin, Red Cloud was a member of the Ho-Chunk nation. At 16, he dropped out of school and, with his father's permission, joined the Marine Corps and would serve as a Marine Raider in World War II, fighting in Guadalcanal and Okinawa.

He left the Marines as a sergeant, but in 1948 returned to active duty by joining the Army as an infantryman, according to the Army.

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Chief of Staff of the Army General James C. McConville states: “Our Army’s people are our greatest strength and our most important weapon system.” Soldiers’ physical, cognitive and emotional health serves as a foundation to readiness. Join us as we host a panel discussion on Holistic Health to explore the importance of the human dimension in future large-scale combat operations.
Tech skills, talent management key for future warrants

Warrant officer education and talent management must evolve across all three Army components to meet the needs of the future force, a panel of senior warrant officers said July 8 during a Thought Leaders webinar hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army.

The Army expects warrant officers to develop depth and “pursue mastery” in their MOSs, but current professional military education “does not provide careerlong focus on that expertise,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jonathan Yerby, senior warrant officer adviser for Army Forces Command.

Technical expertise

At the mid-grade level and above, capabilities tend to drift away from technical expertise to staff and strategic knowledge, Yerby said.

This gap will continue to widen if education is not adjusted “for a more effective and efficient continuum centered on technical and tactical expertise,” he said.

“In the past, warrant officers needed broadening assignments to advance their careers,” but those assignments often did not build depth for a specific specialty, Yerby said.

“We need to find opportunities that build mastery in specialties ... [because in the future] the Army is going to require technical expertise like never before.”

Fields such as cyber and artificial intelligence are “where our technical and tactical competency is going to make a difference. We will be utilized by the Army because we are specific in our capability,” said CW5 Rick Knowlton, senior warrant officer adviser for the Army’s Talent Management Task Force.

Additionally, the service is looking at talent management opportunities and ways to retain warrant officers, specifically at the CW4 level, Knowlton said.

Staying relevant

Looking at technical proficiency over the career life cycle of a warrant officer is also a priority for the reserve component, said CW5 Patrick Nelligan, the Army Reserve’s command chief warrant officer.

Warrants must seek to “be relevant to future Army requirements,” Nelligan said, adding “it’s an exciting time to be a warrant officer. It’s not just a rank, it’s an identity.”

Also participating in the panel was CW5 Teresa Domeier, command chief warrant officer for the Army National Guard, who noted that warrants are “combat multipliers” and emphasized the importance of training and readiness.

CW5 Yolondria Dixon-Carter, senior warrant officer adviser to the Army chief of staff, provided opening remarks. The panel was moderated by retired CW5 Phyllis Wilson, a member of AUSA’s board of directors.

The forum was held one day before the 103rd birthday of the warrant officer cohort, July 9.
Army hones Arctic, jungle fighting capabilities for brigade combat teams

The Army is planning 20 combat training center rotations in fiscal 2022, including, for the first time, a rotation focused on fighting in the Arctic and another on operating in the jungle, senior officials said.

Planning also calls for a rotation dedicated to a security force assistance brigade and at least two for Army National Guard brigade combat teams, said Maj. Gen. Sean Swindell, assistant deputy Army chief of staff for operations.

Speaking during a call with reporters to discuss the Army’s fiscal 2022 budget, Swindell said the Army is “in a good position” with its combat training center rotations.

There will be eight rotations—seven for the Regular Army and one for the Army National Guard—at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, and six rotations, including one for the Guard, at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Two additional rotations that had been planned for JRTC will become “exportable” rotations, Swindell said.

One will take place in Alaska as the Army works to bolster its Arctic capabilities, and the other will be in Hawaii so soldiers can focus on jungle-centric operations, he said.

The timing of those rotations was still being finalized.

The remaining four rotations will be at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels, Germany.

With these rotations, “we’re still able to maintain our heavy forces with that premier training event” while providing light forces and “all of our directed readiness requirements” the training they need, Swindell said.

The $173 billion budget requested by the Army is part of an overall $715 billion DoD budget for fiscal 2022.

The proposal represents a $3.6 billion reduction for the Army that preserves military personnel funding but reduces procurement, research, development, testing and evaluation funds by $4.2 billion from current spending.

Maj. Gen. Paul Chamberlain, director of the Army budget, said the budget is sufficient to meet demands at home and overseas.

“The Army’s budget, as it’s submitted, supports all the requirements that’s asked of the Army,” he said.

The Army’s topline did decline, Chamberlain said, but he attributed that to the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. “Overall, the Army’s budget ensures we meet our modernization priorities and we take care of our people,” he said.
M4 carbine to remain during next-gen rifle development

The combat-tested M4 carbine will remain in soldiers’ hands for a while even as the service develops a new, next-generation weapon as one of its top modernization priorities.

The Next-Generation Squad Weapon, a key part of the Soldier Lethality Cross-Functional Team’s portfolio, is undergoing “rapid prototyping right now,” said Douglas Bush, acting assistant Army secretary for acquisition, logistics and technology.

But initial plans call for the weapons to be fielded only to the Army’s close-combat force and those who directly support them—about 120,000 infantry, cavalry scouts, combat engineers, forward observers and medics, as well as special operations soldiers.

“We have not considered yet whether we’ll replace the M4 and M16,” said Gen. Mike Murray, commander of Army Futures Command. “That is a future decision to be made, very much to be made based on what we find with the prototyping going on right now.”

Ultimately, the Next-Generation Squad Weapon will feature two rifles—one to replace the M4 and the other to replace the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon. The two rifles, along with new 6.8 mm ammunition, will give dismounted combat troops increased lethality, officials have said.

Three vendors are in the running to produce the weapons, and the Army plans to select one vendor for rapid fielding and initial production during the first quarter of fiscal 2022, Bush said.

Pvt. Devan Byer, of Able Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, qualifies with an M4 on Gordon Range at Fort Benning, Georgia. (U.S. ARMY/MARKEITH HORACE)
Retired Gen. Montgomery Meigs, a former commander of U.S. Army Europe who also served as director of DoD’s Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, died July 6. He was 76.

A native of Annapolis, Maryland, and Life Member of the Association of the U.S. Army, Meigs graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1967 and spent his initial assignments in armored cavalry units in Germany and Vietnam.

He attended the Army Command and General Staff College, taught in the history department at West Point and received his doctorate in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1982.

He served on the Joint Staff for three years before returning to Germany to command the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division and lead it through a deployment in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Meigs’ other assignments and commands include the 7th Army Training Command in Grafenwoehr, Germany; the 3rd Infantry Division; and the 1st Infantry Division. He deployed to Bosnia in 1996 with the 1st Infantry Division, where he commanded NATO’s Multi-National Division (North) as part of Operations Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard.

In 1998, he assumed command of Army Europe and 7th Army and, including a stint as commander of NATO’s peacekeeping force in Bosnia, served in that role until his retirement in 2002.

Four years later, Meigs was tapped to lead an expanded DoD effort to counter the threat of improvised explosive devices against U.S. and coalition forces. Then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld personally asked Meigs to fill the job. “I thank him for his willingness to resume public service,” he said at the time.

Meigs, a recipient of the Bronze Star with V device and Purple Heart, taught at Syracuse University and was a visiting professor of strategy and military operations at Georgetown University, where he taught courses on defense challenges in the 21st century.

He authored Slide Rules and Submarines: American Scientists and Subsurface Warfare in World War II.
Senior enlisted golf event builds service camaraderie

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, U.S. Army retired

For the past 42 years, some of the most senior enlisted members of each military service have gathered for a special purpose—to build camaraderie and share in a little fun and, most importantly, to settle the rivalry of who will claim the title of best overall service at the annual All Services E-9 Golf Tournament.

The Association of the U.S. Army’s NCO and Soldier Programs directorate is a longtime supporter of the tournament and has had the honor of hosting the event several times.

This year, we teamed up with a few of AUSA’s National Partners to sponsor the Army team and assist in running the event.

The origins of the golf tournament are unclear, but one could easily assume that like many military service rivalries, it most likely began as an exchange of a few friendly comments from one member of a service to another on a golf course that ended with a challenge.

Regardless, this tradition has lasted for decades and has brought with it a fun-filled day of golf that ultimately determines who will take home the rotating trophy and the all-important bragging rights.

Perhaps more importantly, this event builds cohesion and serves as an annual reunion of senior enlisted friends both actively serving and retired.

Scott Leeling and Chet Miller from AUSA’s Pikes Peak chapter in Colorado, on behalf of their companies, CrossCountry Mortgage and Guaranteed Rate, joined forces to outfit the Army team with matching golf shirts.

Each year the responsibility of planning, organizing, and executing the event falls to one of the services. This year’s tournament, at Cypress Creek Golfers’ Club in Smithfield, Virginia, was hosted by the Coast Guard.

Fierce competition

When the sun rose above the course on July 9, it brought with it a much appreciated break in the weather.

The clouds cleared from the storms the night before, and the sun did a quick job of drying the rain-soaked course.

The July sun was in full swing by midday, but one couldn’t ask for better golfing weather.

The event was well attended by each of the services, with just over 100 players.

It was clear from the start that the Army, reigning champions from the previous tournament, was going to have its hands full holding on to the title.

After a day of golfing, to decide the winners at the conclusion of the event, the top 10 players’ scores from each team were averaged to determine each service’s final score.

It proved to be a close finish, with the Air Force team winning by a thin margin over the Navy.

The Army finished a respectable third.

The rotating trophy will be proudly displayed in the Office of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force in the Pentagon until the next tournament.

Until next year

Congratulations to the Air Force team, and thanks to everyone who came out to continue the tradition and share in the camaraderie.

AUSA’s NCO and Soldier Programs directorate looks forward to next year’s tournament, which is scheduled to be hosted by the Navy.

The Army will host the event in 2023.

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey is AUSA’s vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 15th sergeant major of the Army.
Graphic Novel
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It wasn’t long before he returned to combat, this time in Korea. On Nov. 5, 1950, Red Cloud and his fellow soldiers from E Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, were on the ridge of Hill 123 near Chonghyon, North Korea, according to an account from the Army.

Red Cloud, armed with a Browning Automatic Rifle, was manning a listening post out ahead of the company’s main positions.

A Chinese assault force attacked the soldiers on and around Hill 123, and at least part of the force sneaked up on the company from the rear, killing many on the spot, according to the Army.

Red Cloud gave the company its first alarm from his spot on the ridge as a group of Chinese fighters burst from the brush about 100 feet away and rushed toward him. He jumped up and began shooting at the enemy, keeping up his fire with “utter fearlessness,” according to his Medal of Honor citation.

He kept firing until he was shot twice in the chest.

His fierce persistence paid off and caused the enemy to turn back its initial assault. Red Cloud was treated for his gunshot wounds, but he refused to be evacuated.

As the enemy regrouped to attack again, Red Cloud stood his ground and insisted on staying behind to cover the withdrawal of the wounded.

He wrapped an arm around a small tree and continued to fire on the enemy until he fell for the last time, according to the Army.

Later, American soldiers found dead Chinese fighters in front of Red Cloud’s body. He had been shot eight times.

His “heroic act stopped the enemy from overrunning his company’s position and gained time for reorganization and evacuation of the wounded,” according to his Medal of Honor citation, which lauded Red Cloud for his “dauntless courage and gallant self-sacrifice.”

In April 1951, his mother, Lillian “Nellie” Red Cloud, was presented with the Medal of Honor awarded to her son during a ceremony at the Pentagon.

Each AUSA graphic novel is created by a team of professional comic book veterans. The script for the graphic novel on Red Cloud was written by Chuck Dixon, whose previous work includes Batman, The Punisher and The ‘Nam.

Illustrations and the cover for the book were by Peter Pantazis, who has worked on Black Panther, Superman and Justice League, and the lettering was by Troy Peteri, who previously worked on Spider-Man, Iron Man and X-Men.

Two more graphic novels are planned for this year, along with a paperback collection in the fall.
AUSA member inducted into Warrant Officer Hall of Fame

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harry Hobbs, a Life Member of the Association of the U.S. Army’s Redstone-Huntsville chapter in Alabama, was inducted into the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Hall of Fame during a July 9 ceremony.

“I accepted the award for all of the soldiers I served with in combat that did not survive. Thank you for all your support,” Hobbs said, according to a Facebook post from the chapter.

Hobbs joined the Army in 1978 and attended basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He served four years as a field artillery soldier and then six years as a missile systems repair supervisor, the Redstone Rocket reported.

In 1988, Hobbs received a warrant officer appointment and began mentoring and training Ordnance Corps chief warrant officers.


“I talked to a lot of parents about the loss of their loved one. That always stayed with me because I knew they gave their life for me and others who served alongside them,” he said, according to the Redstone Rocket. “It made me think, ‘I’ve got to work harder. I want to honor them by living a life of excellence and of helping others.’ ”

In 1999, the Army assigned Hobbs to the Warrant Officer Career Center at Fort Rucker, Alabama, as the staff course manager, where he trained senior warrant officers in ethics, Army leadership doctrine, fitness and nutrition.

Hobbs was selected in 2004 to serve as the personnel proponent warrant officer at the Army Ordnance Center and School at Redstone Arsenal, where he reviewed and updated the instruction requirements for the Army’s missile and electronic MOSs. This effort transformed how the Army trained future ordnance soldiers, according to the Redstone Rocket.

Chapter supports retirees at local appreciation event

The Association of the U.S. Army’s Fort Campbell chapter recently supported a Retiree Appreciation Day at the Soldier Support Center at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Working with local government agencies and community partners, including the AUSA chapter, Fort Campbell enabled participants to learn about and arrange for medical, educational, employment, financial and housing services.

At the June 19 event, chapter members manned an information table to educate participants on the benefits of AUSA membership.

The Fort Campbell Soldier for Life Program Office welcomed the retiree community and showcased a wide array of services.

Units from the installation provided static displays so that retirees and their family members could learn about the newest Army equipment and enjoy conversations with soldiers.

Attendees also heard updates from Maj. Gen. J.P. McGee, commander of the 101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell; Maj. Gen. Tommy Baker, deputy adjutant general of the Tennessee National Guard; retired Brig Gen. Scott Brower, an adviser to the Fort Campbell AUSA chapter; and retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, AUSA’s national vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs.
Stay connected with AUSA at home with our virtual series featuring guest speakers from Army leadership discussing key defense industry topics.

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